

Death of the Fox Inn  
Mt. Royal, Gloucester County, New Jersey

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Seymour Williams, F.A.I.A., District Officer  
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

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Death of the Fox Inn  
Mt. Royal, Gloucester County, New Jersey

Owner: Nathan Hoffman

Date of Erection: Before 1765

Architect:

Builder:

Present Condition: Fair

Number of Stories: Two and one-half

Materials of Construction: Foundation - stone

Exterior walls - stone, stuccoed

Interior walls - plaster, open  
beamed ceilings

Inside brick chimneys

Roof - pitch

Historical Data:

The land upon which this tavern stands was granted to John Clarke in 1681 by William Penn, Gawen Lawry, Nicholas Lucas, and Edward Bylling. This John Clarke was a London Brewer. His son, also John, gentleman of Hackney County, Middlesex, England, conveyed the land to Benjamin Alford, a merchant of Boston.

The next record we have belongs to the year 1760 when George Emlen conveyed by indenture a tract of land to Isaac Comron. Richard Price, the high sheriff, conveyed by indenture in 1765 to John Comron a son of Isaac.

In 1774 by indenture Thomas Denny, high sheriff, conveyed the tract to William Eldridge, and in 1789 Eldridge conveyed to one Daniel Smith. We know also, from the Scrap Book of the Gloucester County Historical Society, that in 1792 David Smith was the owner. There was a mortgage of 500 pounds on the property in 1765 which serves to substantiate the fact that the inn was in existence. However, the deed from George Emlen to Isaac Comron can not be located and without this it is impossible to determine the exact date of erection.

The inn is supposed to have been the headquarters of the Gloucester Fox Hunting Club. The club was organized early in the eighteenth century. It was revived in 1760. It is perfectly possible that the inn was used as early as that date as a meeting place for the club.

#### Bibliography:

Search of Old Gloucester County records at Woodbury and records in the Gloucester County Historical Society by O. F. Benjamin

Search of records in the Secretary of State's Office by R. M. Falcey

Stewart, F. H. (editor) Notes on Old Gloucester County, New Jersey Historical records published by the New Jersey Society of Pennsylvania, 1917

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